



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release
March 8, 2007

BROOKS, SMITH CONTINUE PUSH FOR MCWA REFORMS

Call for Local Law to End Future Benefits

County Executive Maggie Brooks and **Legislative Majority Leader Bill Smith** (R-Pittsford) today submitted a joint referral to the County Legislature that would change the future structure of benefits provided to the Board of Directors of the Monroe County Water Authority. Currently, board members and former board members receive lifetime health and other benefits for themselves and their families.

Under the legislation offered by Brooks and Smith, future Water Authority Board members would receive no benefits outside of a stipend established annually as part of the Monroe County budget process. Health and other insurance benefits would no longer be part of new members' compensation to serve on the Water Authority board.

*"There is no place in government for excessive benefits or compensation and this legislation will ensure that this will be the case at the Water Authority," **County Executive Brooks** stated. "Today's legislation is another step towards restoring faith in the Water Authority, by requiring that benefits given to their board are fully disclosed and ratified by the county legislature. This is another needed step in our efforts to provide accountability to the ratepayers at the authority, and I urge the legislature to pass this referral at Tuesday's meeting."*

Although the Authority is not a part of Monroe County government, Water Authority board members' compensation is established as part of the annual Monroe County budget process. This compensation is established annually by act of the legislature.

*"This continues the legislature's effort to address issues related to the Monroe County Water Authority," said **Majority Leader Smith**. "We must continue to stand for the ratepayers of Monroe County. This common-sense reform legislation will continue our success in this endeavor".*

-more-

Brooks/Smith MCWA Reforms
Page Two

The proposed changes under this legislation were created through consultation with the Public Authority's legal counsel, Chuck Turner. The Counsel's position was created by County Executive Brooks in 2004 to serve as an ethics "watchdog", and to provide oversight of public authorities operating within Monroe County.

###

Media Inquiries, contact:

Brooks: Department of Communications at 753-1080

Smith: Majority Office at 753-1950